



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.                      | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/810,730                           | 03/26/2004  | Pramod K. Sharma     | 2003-0762.02        | 9683             |
| 21972                                | 7590        | 03/14/2007           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL, INC.          |             |                      | VARGAS, DIXOMARA    |                  |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| 740 WEST NEW CIRCLE ROAD             |             |                      | 2859                |                  |
| BLDG. 082-1                          |             |                      |                     |                  |
| LEXINGTON, KY 40550-0999             |             |                      |                     |                  |

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 03/14/2007 | PAPER         |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/810,730             | SHARMA ET AL.       |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Dixomara Vargas        | 2859                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2007.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-29 and 31-46 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 32-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-29 and 31 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Based on applicant's remarks filed on 02/09/07, the finality of the previous office action is withdrawn and thus the amendment filed is hereby entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omata et al. (US 6,442,356 B2) in view of Tanaka (US 6,421,521 B2).

With respect to claims 1, 23 and 29-31, Omata discloses an image transfer assembly for use with an image forming device, said image transfer assembly comprising (Figure 5): a

plurality of image forming units transferring print material (Pa-Pd) to a media substrate (paper P), each of said plurality of image forming units comprising a photoconductive unit (#101a-#101d) and a transfer device (#105a-#105d) positioned to receive the media substrate therebetween (paper P); and a first power supply coupled to said transfer devices and supplying a voltage thereto (#170a-#170d).

In addition, Omata discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for a first power supply coupled to at least two but less than all of said transfer devices. However, Tanaka discloses a first power supply coupled to at least two but less than all coils (Columns 3 and 6, lines 1-9 and 46-59 respectively; Figures 7 and 14-17). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a first power supply coupled to at least two but less than all of the devices as taught by Tanaka' with Omata's image transfer assembly for the purpose of applying different voltages to the different groupings, for example, one voltage to the black toner and a different voltage to the color toners to form either a black and white image or a color image as taught by Tanaka (Column 6, lines 46-59).

5. With respect to claims 2, 21, 24 and 26, Omata discloses the voltage supplied by said first power supply is substantially the same for each of said at least two transfer devices (Column 7, lines 9-49).

6. With respect to claims 3, 22 and 25, Omata discloses the voltage generated by said first power supply is different for each of said at least two transfer devices (Column 7, lines 9-49).

7. With respect to claims 4, 14 and 27, Omata discloses a first image forming unit and a second image forming unit (Pa-Pd), said first image forming unit receiving said media substrate (paper P) before said second image forming unit (Figure 5), said first image forming unit

comprising a first transfer device and said second image forming unit comprising a second transfer device (#105a-#105d), said first and second transfer devices being coupled to said first power supply (#170a-#170d), wherein the voltage of the second transfer device is greater than the voltage of the first transfer device (Column 7, lines 9-49).

8. With respect to claims 5 and 15, Omata discloses said first image forming unit comprises black print material (Column 3, lines 13-24).

9. With respect to claims 6 and 16, Omata discloses said second image forming unit comprises yellow print material (Column 3, lines 13-24).

10. With respect to claim 7, Omata discloses said first power supply comprises a plurality of Zener diodes to generate the different voltages for each of said at least two transfer devices (Column 7, lines 36-49).

11. With respect to claim 8, Omata discloses a second power supply coupled to another one of said transfer devices (#170a-#170d).

12. With respect to claims 9, 13 and 17, Omata discloses a voltage range of said first power supply is substantially the same as a voltage range of said second power supply (Column 7, lines 9-49).

13. With respect to claim 10, Omata discloses a third power supply coupled to another one of said transfer devices (#170a-#170d), wherein a voltage range of said third power supply is greater than the voltage range of said first and second power supplies (Column 7, lines 9-49).

14. With respect to claims 11 and 28, Omata discloses the voltage supplied to said at least two transfer devices is substantially constant during operation of said image forming device (Column 7, lines 9-49).

15. With respect to claims 12 and 18, see rejection of claims 1-6 above.
16. With respect to claim 19, see rejection of claims 1-6 above. In addition, Omata discloses a fuser (Figure 4 (#111); and a housing supporting said image transfer assembly and said fuser (housing in Figures 1 and 4 not numbered).
17. With respect to claim 20, Omata discloses a transport belt coupled to said housing and moving said media substrate to each of said image forming units (Figures 4-6, #190).

***Response to Arguments***

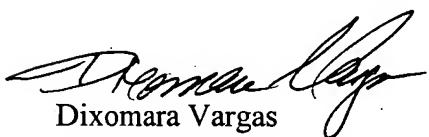
18. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Dixomara Vargas  
Art Unit 2859



Diego Gutierrez  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800